

Message Text

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47

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 SY-02 SSO-00 NSCE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 USSS-00 USIE-00 FBIE-00 ARAE-00 SP-02 INR-10

INRE-00 SCCT-01 IO-03 PRS-01 L-02 NSC-07 RSC-01 DRC-01

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O 081744Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 1733

INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MEXICO CITY IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTO DOMINGO 4179

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS

SUBJECT: HUTCHISON CASE: CONVERSATION WITH ADMIRAL JIMENEZ OCT 7

1. AT 4 P.M. YESTERDAY (OCT 7) ADMIRAL JIMENEZ RECEIVED ME. WE DISCUSSED IN SOME DETAIL THE SUBSTANCE OF MY LONG CONVERSATION WITH MENDEZ VARGAS. JIMENEZ HAD NO SUBSTANTIVE COMMENTS OR OBJECTIONS REGARDING IT.

2. HE THEN TURNED TO THE NECESSITY OF INTRODUCING MORE PRESSURE INTO THE SITUATION. HE SAID THAT AT THE PRESENT RATE THE TERRORISTS COULD HOLD OUT FOR QUITE SOME TIME, PERHAPS MONTHS, A SITUATION WHICH THE GOVERNMENT COULD NOT TOLERATE. HE SAID THAT AN UNDULY PROLONGED RESOLUTION OF THE KIDNAPPING WOULD SERVE TO ENCOURAGE THE RADICAL LEFT TO BELIEVE THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS AT A LOSS AS TO HOW TO HANDLE THE SITUATION AND PUBLIC CONFIDENCE IN THE GOVERNMENT WOULD BEGIN TO ERODE AS WELL. WITH SOME SENSE OF FRUSTRATION HE INDICATED THAT HAD HE BEEN LISTENED TO EARLIER, THAT IS, HAD MORE SEVERE PRESSURE TACTICS BEEN
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INTRODUCED PROGRESSIVELY FROM THE OUTSET, THE WHOLE

UNFORTUNATE HAPPENING WOULD HAVE BEEN RESOLVED BY NOW.

3. I OBSERVED THAT, DURING THIS 11-DAY PERIOD WITH THE CURRENT TACTICS, THE TERRORISTS HAD SCALED DOWN THEIR DEMANDS SIGNIFICANTLY. I THEN ASKED JIMENEZ TO CONSIDER THE WISDOM OF APPLYING PRESSURE IMMEDIATELY IN THE LIGHT OF THE WAY MY TELEPHONE CONVERSATION WITH MENDEZ VARGAS HAD BEEN LEFT: IF AFTER CONSULTATION WITH HIS COMPANIONS HE HAD SOMETHING TO SAY TO ME I COULD BE REACHED VIA THE SAME MEANS. SINCE THAT VERY AFTERNOON MENDEZ HAD SHOUTED FROM THE WINDOW THAT HE WISHED TO SPEAK TO ME VIA THE SAME TELEPHONE (WHICH COULD NOT BE ACCOMPLISHED DUE TO DAMAGE TO THE PHONE), I ASKED WHETHER IT WOULD NOT BE PREFERABLE TO AWAIT REPAIR OF THE TELEPHONE AND HEAR WHAT MENDEZ VARGAS HAD TO SAY BEFORE APPLYING NEW PRESSURE TACTICS. IN OTHER WORDS, THE POSSIBILITY THAT SOME FURTHER FORWARD MOTION MIGHT BE ACHIEVED THROUGH DIALOGUE SHOULD NOT BE FORECLOSED; THERE MIGHT BE SOMETHING TO BE GAINED AND VERY LITTLE TO LOSE BY THE DELAY IN INSTITUTING THE NEW TACTICS. JIMENEZ, AFTER SOME REFLECTION, AGREED.

4. AT THAT POINT, HIS AIDE ENTERED TO INFORM HIM THAT GENERAL BISONO, THE PRESIDENT'S MILITARY AIDE, WAS ON THE PHONE REGARDING A FIVE O'CLOCK MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT. SHORTLY THEREAFTER OUR MEETING ENDED AT 4:55 WITH THE ADMIRAL'S APOLOGIES THAT HE HAD TO LEAVE FOR A MEETING. AT THE DOOR, MY TOWERING FRIEND MILO JIMENEZ TOUCHED ME AND SAID REASSURINGLY, "DON'T WORRY, BOB, AS WE SQUEEZE, WE'LL TRY TO BE AS GENTLE AS WE CAN."
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